The Institute of Advanced Studies and the College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences jointly present the Colloquium on:

**Humanities, Science, Scimat**

*by Prof Lui LAM*

**About the Talk**

There are a few basic issues concerning humanities and science. (1) They are usually viewed as two separate domains, with different aims and research methods. Yet they are both efforts to understand Nature, which includes human and nonhuman systems, and thus have a lot in common. (2) To bridge the gap between these two domains, CAI Yuanpei (China) and C. P. Snow (UK) have advocated that each side learns something about the other, a strategy now adopted in general education in universities worldwide. Unfortunately, this strategy is ineffective and insufficient since it does not go to the root of the problem. (3) Social science is part of science. Are humanities, also about humans, part of science, too? To address these issues, a proper definition of science is needed. Moreover, a proper definition will lead to realignment of the disciplines in a university and help students to plan their study and future career wisely. It will also enable policy makers in education and government to make decisions correctly, leading to a more peaceful world and a better humanity. In this talk a simple definition of science according to Scimat, the new discipline that treats all human-dependent matters as part of science, is provided. Misunderstandings and ambiguities related to the issues above will be discussed and clarified.

**About the Speaker**

Lui LAM, humanist and physicist, is a professor at San Jose State University, California, and guest professor at Chinese Academy of Sciences and China Association for Science and Technology. He obtained his BS (First Class Honours) from University of Hong Kong; MS, University of British Columbia; PhD, Columbia University. He invented Bowlics (1982), one of three existing types of liquid crystals; Active Walks (1992), a new paradigm in complex systems; and two new disciplines: Histophysics (2002) and Scimat (Science Matters, 2007/2008). He has published 15 books and over 180 scientific papers, including *All About Science* (2014). He is the founder of the International Liquid Crystal Society (1990); founder and editor of two book series, “Science Matters” (World Scientific) and “Partially Ordered Systems” (Springer). His current research is in scimat, complex systems, and philosophy.

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**8 January 2015 (Thursday), 2pm**

**HSS Conference Room (HSS-05-57)**
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